Denke – Corson

Jidda, Saudi Arabia
July 24, 1954

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I give you below for your information pertinent information regarding "project" equipment and supplies purchased and in Saudi Arabia. Detailed lists are attached hereto.

Community Development Project - The landed value at Jidda of equipment purchased for use under this project agreement is about $83,000. None of this equipment or supplies has been turned over to SAG. The total amount earmarked to cover the cost of road equipment under this project agreement is $150,000.

Maternal and Child Health Center - The landed value at Jidda of hospital supplies and equipment purchased under this project agreement is about $5800. (Value of additional supplies presently enroute to Jidda to be turned over to the Maternal and Child Health Center on arrival is about $550.) The total amount of the U.S. contribution under this project agreement is $7500 maximum.

Quarantine Station - The landed value at Jidda of equipment purchased for use under this project agreement is about $67,250. All of such equipment with the exception of a water softener (valued at $1650) has arrived at Jidda and is being installed in the Quarantine Station. The total amount earmarked to cover the C&F Jidda value of equipment under this project agreement is $100,000 maximum.

Sincerely yours,

Attachment - 3 lists
As above

/s/ H. J. Corson

The Honorable George Wadsworth,
United States Ambassador,
American Embassy,
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

Jidda, Saudi Arabia
June 21, 1954

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

You asked me last night for a copy of our over-all Technical Assistance Agreement. The Chancellery has a copy of all SAG/USAOM agreements which are in effect at the present time. I am sending a note to Cliff Nelson this morning asking him to have the file containing such copies delivered to you.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable George Wadsworth,
United States Ambassador,
American Embassy,
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

(1)

American Embassy
Jidda, Saudi Arabia
June 21, 1954

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Clifford R. Nelson
American Embassy, Jidda

FROM : Harland J. Corson, Director
USA Operations Mission to Saudi Arabia

SUBJECT: Technical Assistance Agreement - SAG/USAOM

The Ambassador asked me last night for a copy of our overall Technical Assistance Agreement. I have just sent him a note stating that a copy of each SAG/USAOM agreement now in effect is in a file at the Chancellery, and that I am asking you to have that file sent over to him. I shall appreciate your doing this.

Attached are copies of agreements covering the Maternal & Child Health Center and the Vaccine Laboratory. If copies of these agreements are not already in the file being sent to the Ambassador, will you kindly include these in the folder? If you already have copies of these two agreements, it will be appreciated if you will return them for our files.

HJCorson:o

USA OPERATIONS MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA
American Embassy - Jidda

May 2, 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Paul F. Taggart
Chief, Iraq-Saudi Arabia-Lebanon-Syria Division
Near East, South Asia and Africa Operations
Foreign Operations Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Paul:

For your information, I am attaching copy of the memorandum which I handed Ambassador Wadsworth prior to his departure for Riyadh where he is having discussions with the King on political matters of which I know you are aware.

Ambassador Wadsworth stated that he hoped to be able to discuss our situation with the King and as a result of such discussions, the Council of Ministers would give early action to the project agreements which it has for consideration and approval.

Sincerely yours,

Harland J. Corson
Director
USA Operations Mission
to Saudi Arabia

Enclosure -
Ltr to Ambassador
dtd April 27, 1954

HJCorson:o

USA OPERATIONS MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA
Jidda

April 27, 1954

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I should like to give you herewith a resume of our activities, both past and present, in Saudi Arabia. For your ready reference, I am attaching copies of my letters to you dated January 4 and January 8 in this connection.

On December 11, 1953, we received budget approval and covering allotment of funds for our FY-54 technical assistance activities totaling $1,462,000. Several weeks later we received an additional allotment of funds under Special Economic Aid totaling $3,350,000, likewise for FY-54 projects. We immediately proceeded to prepare project agreements under the Technical Assistance budget. These were presented to the respective Ministries as they were completed, for their consideration and approval. With the exception of the Maternal and Child Health Center project agreement and the Vaccine Laboratory agreement, both in reality of last year's vintage, all of the other project agreements are still in the hands of the respective Ministries unsigned and most of them not even discussed with us. Of course, we know that agreements must be approved by the Council of Ministers prior to their execution but it would seem that the respective Ministries would want to discuss with us project agreements which we submitted to them for consideration, prior to their presenting them to the Council of Ministers for approval.

During the past few weeks I have been informed on several occasions by Mr. Sadek Husseini, Director of Liaison, that I will be called to Riyadh to discuss and execute pending project agreements, but I am still waiting for such a call and have no idea as to when I will receive it. As you know, funds unobligated at the close of each fiscal year are returned to Treasury. Now at the end of April, we still have only a very small part of our authorized technical assistance funds obligated and none of our special economic aid funds. At least since my arrival here October last, this Mission has made every effort to be of assistance to the Saudi Arabian Government Ministries, but such efforts have been accepted only with mediocrity. We have stood ready and still stand ready to do everything in our power to help the Saudi Arabian Government

The Honorable George Wadsworth,
American Embassy,
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

improve its administration, to prepare and implement economic development projects and, in general, to help the Saudi Government in any way we can to relieve its "growing pains." It is quite apparent that this Mission for one reason or another has never been given the chance to show what it can do for the Saudi Government and the Saudi people. We have highly qualified and outstanding specialists here waiting for something to do. All of them came here ready, willing and able to assist in work involving their respective fields of activity. Not having been given this chance and after waiting around for months, it is quite natural that they feel very discouraged and yet, in spite of such discouragement, they are still anxious to do what they can in the job for which they were assigned here.

In addition to the technical assistance project agreements presumably under consideration by the Council of Ministers, that entity also has for consideration the over-all Economic Aid Agreement. For some time we have had project agreements under that over-all agreement ready for presentation to the respective Ministries through the Council of Ministers for their consideration and approval after the over-all agreement has been executed. Here again we are completely stymied.

As you know, all agreements require discussion, writing and rewriting before final execution. There are eleven agreements in Riyadh awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers, including the over-all Special Economic Aid agreement. In addition to these, we have four special economic aid project agreements ready to present for consideration and approval after the over-all agreement has been signed. We are still awaiting an opportunity to discuss with the Minister of Education a school planning project; also with the Minister of Finance an aerial magnetic survey, both of which we know are of interest to these respective Ministers. After we have obtained their views regarding these projects, we can then prepare immediately project agreements for submission to the Council of Ministers for approval during the present session.

I should like to remind you, too, that we have prepared organization charts, accompanied by individual job descriptions, for the Ministries of Communications, Education and Agriculture, and have offered to do likewise for the Ministry of Commerce. For the Ministry of Agriculture we prepared a detailed five-year plan. Our newly created Public Administration Division is getting underway in the Ministry of Finance.

It is really a pity that so much time and opportunity is being lost, all against the best interests of the Saudi Arabian Government and the Saudi people. It is sincerely hoped that arrangements will be made soon whereby our FY-54 technical assistance and special economic aid projects can get under way, and that a recurrence of present delays will be avoided in the future. We have much to offer, but little has been accepted.

Sincerely yours,

HJCorson:o

April 27, 1954.

Memorandum to Mr. Corson:

The Ambassador is leaving here on or about May 1st to attend a meeting of Ambassadors to be held at Istanbul on May 11th, and he stated he would like to have a short memorandum concerning TCA, as follows:

1. What they have done.
2. What they are now doing.
3. What is for the future.

He wished to bring into the memorandum the work of Dr. Young as Financial Advisor and the ultimate establishment of the Monetary Agency as an accomplishment of TCA.

Water program, and the Taif watershed aerial photography - Dr. Brown will have something on this. Also, other aerial photography which has been taken in connection with water development.

Jidda-Riyadh railway survey.

Program for future stating money and projects involved.

Also some mention of Economic Aid, although nothing has been gotten under way with respect to this matter as yet.

Also items under Agriculture, Health and Sanitation. Under Government Administration I presume the setting up of the custom tariff should be mentioned, as well as regulations set up for the running of the Customs' office.

EFS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

~~TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION~~

**USA OPERATIONS MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA**
**Jidda**

January 4, 1954

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

In order that you may have some idea as to the extent of our present operations in Saudi Arabia, the following information will be helpful to you.

1. The activities of USAOM for the FY-54 period comprise technical assistance programs and economic aid projects. U.S. funds for the above programs total $1,462,000, and for the above projects $3,350,000. Although SAG contributions have not been agreed upon as yet, it is expected that they will be from two to three times greater than U.S. contributions.

2. Technical assistance programs comprise the following fields of activity:

| | |
|---|---|
| Agriculture | Health and Sanitation |
| Natural Resources | Public Administration |
| Education | Transportation and Communications |

Economic aid projects comprise the following fields of activity:

Water development
Roads
Abha Irrigation Dam, and
Improvement of the Port of Gizan.

3. Our FY-54 budget was approved the latter part of November last, but the allocation of funds was not made until about the 10th of December last. We are now awaiting the final text from Washington of the diplomatic notes to be exchanged with SAG setting up the FY-54 technical assistance and economic aid programs/projects; also the agreement form to be used for the economic aid projects. After this exchange of diplomatic notes has been completed and the economic aid agreement has been executed, there will be another exchange of diplomatic notes - prescribed in the TCA Manual dated September 1, 1953 - establishing the cooperative service type of agreement. After this latter exchange of diplomatic notes has been completed, then we will immediately negotiate program agreements under technical assistance and project agreements under economic aid.

Ambassador George Wadsworth,
United States Embassy,
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

I will be glad to go into detail regarding any of our activities at any time with you.

Sincerely yours,

HJCarson:c

COPY

USA OPERATIONS MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA
Jidda

January 8, 1954

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

The following information will give you a brief resume of the U.S. technical assistance activities in Saudi Arabia up to the present.

According to information available here, technical assistance was first requested of the U.S. Government by the Saudi Arabian Government in 1949, when the Saudi Arabian Government requested assistance in developing and carrying out a water development program. Dr. Glen Brown was assigned to this job and work was started early in 1950, under Public Law 403, under a grant from the State Department. $55,000 was made available to Dr. Brown and his assistant, Roy Jackson, to cover aerial photography in the Asir-Tihama area involving about 20,000 square miles. Field work was started in the Fall of 1950, but was interrupted frequently by urgent calls from the King and/or Minister of Finance to develop water supply for Riyadh and other centers of population. Two years later the field work in the Asir-Tihama area was finally completed and exploratory drilling was started by Bechtel, SAG contractors. $650,000 of equipment was purchased by the Saudi Arabian Government and the cost of drilling crews and expenses was borne by the Saudi Arabian Government, plus cost of furnished housing for Dr. Brown, Mr. Jackson and their families.

On January 17, 1951, the U.S. Government and the Saudi Arabian Government executed an agreement whereby the former would provide technical assistance to the latter for the purpose of developing the economic resources and productive capacities of Saudi Arabia. The first two requests made by the Saudi Arabian Government for assistance under that agreement were in the fields of water development and public finance, including currencies, tariffs and customs. Mr. Arthur Young was sent here in February 1952 from the United States to study the public finance situation and as a result of such study he proceeded to set up what is now known as the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency. This job was completed and Mr. Young returned to the United States in October 1952. Mr. Robert Kennedy was sent here from the United States in August 1951 to study and revise tariffs. His activities culminated in a new Tariff Law becoming effective on December 3, 1952.

Mr. George Wadsworth,
United States Ambassador,
American Embassy,
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

In February 1952, Dr. Samuel Stratton was appointed the first Country Director of this Mission, remaining in that post until December of the same year, when his appointment expired. During his administration program agreements in the respective fields of activity were executed, as well as the agreements covering the Riyadh-Jidda Railway Survey and the Community Development. Although negotiations were carried on in other fields of activity, there were only four project agreements executed during the FY-53 period under the above program agreements -- (1) Aerial Survey, involving a U.S. expenditure of $115,000; (2) Railway Survey, involving a U.S. expenditure of about $300,000; (3) Quarantine Station, involving a U.S. expenditure of $100,000 ($50,000 of which was to carry over into FY-54), and (4) the Community Development, involving a U.S. expenditure of $500,000. In addition to the above expenditures, there was the cost of U.S. Technicians on each project. The Saudi Arabian Government contributions for the above projects comprised -- (1) Quarters, subsistence and supplies for crews, as well as gasoline, oil and oxygen; (2) equivalent of $27,000 for gasoline, oil and other supplies, housing and subsistence in Jidda for project manager and technicians, aircraft and crews for aerial reconnaissance; (3) about $10,000 in modification of existing buildings, installation of electric generator and cost of installation of U.S. equipment, and (4) $500,000 in kind and cash.

During the past year and a half 24 training grants have been issued, averaging about $4,000 each, the Saudi Arabian Government contributing about the same amount.

Mr. John Dunaway arrived here in October 1951, to study and make recommendations on Customs administration. Many recommendations were made for improvement in procedure and administration of Customs but to date only a few have been made effective in spite of Mr. Dunaway's efforts, until October 1953, when he returned to the United States.

During the FY-53 period, little was accomplished in the Education and Agriculture fields, due to the adverse attitude on the part of the Saudi Arabian Government towards outside assistance in educational work and lack of any sort of agricultural organization within the Saudi Arabian Government.

During FY-54 the following projects have been or are being drawn up:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 1) | Livestock Improvement Farm near Jidda | ($42,300); |
| | 2) | Demonstration drainage and experimental station at either Qatif or Hofuf | ($38,000); |
| | 3) | Three demonstration range management plots | ($12,300). |
| Education | 1) | Dammam Industrial Training School | ($75,000); |
| | 2) | Jidda Commercial School | ($58,300); |
| | 3) | Elementary School planning | ($ 9,000). |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Health and Sanitation | 1) Quarantine Station at Jidda | ($50,000); |
| | 2) Maternal & Child Health Center at Jidda | ($ 7,500); |
| | 3) Medical Library at Jidda | ($ 2,000); |
| | 4) Immunization Program and Vaccine Laboratory at Taif | ($85,000). |
| Natural Resources | 1) Establishment of Meteorological and Stream Gauging Station | ($ 6,000); |
| | 2) Mineral Geological Survey of Western Areas | ($70,000). |
| Transportation and Communications | 1) Installation of VOR equipment at Jidda | ($75,000). |

Although there are no specific projects under Public Administration, assistance in the fields of accounting, budgets, public administration, statistics and investment climate will be afforded provided FOA/W recruits requested personnel soon.

As of this date, the status of our FY-54 projects is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Actually executed - | Maternal & Child Health Center.<br>Quarantine Station. |
| Signature expected any time - | Jidda Commercial School.<br>Dammam Industrial Training School. |
| Ready to be presented for signature - | Livestock Improvement Farm.<br>Medical Library.<br>Installation of VOR at Jidda. |
| To be finished for presentation for signature | Demonstration Drainage and Experimental Station.<br>Demonstration Range Management.<br>Immunization Program and Vaccine Laboratory. |
| Yet to be discussed with the Saudi Arabian Government - | Elementary School Planning.<br>Establishment of Meteorological and Stream Gauging Station.<br>Mineral Geological Survey. |

We expect to have all agreements executed within sixty days after the exchange of diplomatic notes is completed.

Sincerely yours,

USA OPERATIONS MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA
American Embassy - Jidda

April 11, 1954

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

This refers to my recent conversation with you relative to packages consigned to employees of this Mission which are detained in Customs at Dhahran.

A check has been made amongst all employees of this Mission to ascertain the approximate number of packages which are considered to be detained. Following is the result of such check:

| Name | Number of Packages |
|---|---|
| J. M. Butler | 2 |
| Rolf Skrinde | 1 |
| Blanche L. Oakes | 1 |
| R. D. Dolley | 8 to 10 |
| Gus Goudarzi | 1 |
| Glen Brown | 3 or 4 |
| H. J. Corson | 5 or 6 |
| W. J. Edens | 1 |
| Roy Jackson | 2 or 3 |

If you agree, I suggest that the Embassy pass the above information on to General Grover at Dhahran with the request that one of his postal clerks check the packages being held by Customs at Dhahran to ascertain if any of them correspond to the above employees.

I am attaching a current list of the personnel of this Mission, which might be forwarded at the same time to General Grover in the event there are packages detained which correspond to employees other than those listed above.

The employees of this Mission will assume responsibility for damages or losses which might occur in the opening of any of such packages for inspection provided this is done in the presence of the above-mentioned postal clerk.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure - Roster

Ambassador George Wadsworth,
American Embassy,
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

HJCorson:o

A peaceful world is based upon friendship among nations. This friendship rests upon common interests and respect, in an atmosphere of mutual helpfulness. That is why the United States genuinely desires to engage in mutual aid and technical assistance in cooperation with sister countries.

The United States believes that many of its technical skills will be useful to friendly nations. These skills are being shared through the United States of America Operations Missions (Point Four) with those friendly countries. This plan is not unselfish because such gestures should strengthen the ties of friendship which now exisrt.

The primary objective of the United States programs under Point Four in the countries of the Near East is to aid the governments and peoples in their efforts to develpp their own resources and build up their economic and social structures.

At the request of these cooperating countries hundreds of American technicians have gone out to work with the people of these nations on their practical problems. These Americans are engaged in an exchange of ideas, knowledge and skills which can be profitably applied in agriculture, health and sanitation, industry, education, transportation, communications, and government management.

Point Four is cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture in Saudi Arabia in the field of agruiculture on the improvement of farming methods and better use of the scarce water supply. Many wells have been drilled by the Saudi Arabian Government under supervision of Point Four technicians to provide a life-giving supply of water for the

farms and flocks as well as for the cities of Saudi Arabia.

In health and sanitation Point Four technicians are assisting in preventive medicine, quarantine, improved sanitary measures, and a demonstration project in maternal and child health.

Education is a field in which technical cooperation is serving the Ministry of Education. Here, technicians are assisting in the establishment of vocational schools and in the planning for other educational activities.

A large area in Saudi Arabia has been explored for water and mineral resources and aerial maps have been prepared for the Government.

Technicians of Point Four have been assisting in the Ministry of Communications on the location of railroads and highways, and on the construction of roads between important areas of the country.

In government management Point Four technicians, at the request of the Saudi Arabian Government, are engaged upon a number of tasks having to do with the customs administration, particularly with regard to import and export records. Other technical specialists are available to the Government to the extent that they may be of service.

USA Operations Mission to
Saudi Arabia

Jidda, Saudi Arabia
February 27, 1954

H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz
Minister of Agriculture
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Jidda

Your Highness:

I have suggested to Ambassador Wadsworth that native vegetation be used in decorating the American Embassy compound. Most such plants use brackish or salty water and will help conserve fresh water in Jidda. I would like for Your Highness to approve their getting shrubs from the desert for this purpose in the interest of conserving water and also to aquaint visitors there with many of the interesting plants of the Kingdom.

Please accept my respects.

Sincerely yours,

Glen Brown
Glen F. Brown, Chief
Natural Resources Division

copy Mr. Corson.

MC

Dis Corresp

USA OPERATIONS MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA
Jidda

January 26, 1954

Dear Jeff:

There are no new developments in our projects with Prince Sultan and Prince Fahad other than the fact that we are discussing with them the setting up of their respective Ministries, the projects pertaining to each Ministry, and their budgets for covering all pending projects, technical assistance and economic aid. We start conversations tomorrow with Prince Talal. Mr. Sinclair has an appointment with him at 10:30 to discuss road planning and surveys under economic aid.

Sincerely,

Harland J. Corson,
Director

J. Jefferson Jones, III
Counselor of Embassy
American Embassy
Jidda

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
American Embassy,
Jidda, Saudi Arabia,
January 26, 1954.

Dear Jerry:

The Ambassador has an appointment with Prince Sultan at 10:30 and with Prince Talal at 12:00 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, January 27. It is also expected that he will see Prince Fahad and Shaikh Mohammed Suroor on Thursday.

Is there anything which has emerged from your conversations with the foregoing about which the Ambassador should be aware before he makes his calls? If so, I should appreciate your sending me a memorandum either this afternoon or early in the morning.

Sincerely,

J. Jefferson Jones, III
Counselor of Embassy

Harland J. Corson, Director,
United States of America
Operations Mission to Saudi Arabia,
Jidda.

USA OPERATIONS MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA
Jidda

January 4, 1954

Dear Jeff:

I will be happy to be at the Embassy tomorrow at 12:00 noon to see the Ambassador.

Sincerely,

Harland J. Corson
Director
USA Operations Mission to Saudi Arabia

Mr. J. Jefferson Jones, III
Charge d'Affaires ad interim
American Embassy
Jidda

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

January 4, 1954.

Dear Jerry:

The Ambassador would be happy to see you tomorrow. Would 12:00 noon be convenient to you?

I have received and will submit to the Ambassador prior to your call, your memorandum summarizing the Point IV and special economic aid programs for Saudi Arabia.

Sincerely,

J. Jefferson Jones, III
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Harland J. Corson, Esquire,
Country Director,
U.S.A.O.M.S.A.
J i d d a.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Harland J. Corson, Esquire,
Foreign Operations Administration,
J i d d a.

مشهور كريه